

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A threaded fastener, comprising:
a shank having a head end and a lead end;
a head at said head end;
a thread disposed about said shank, said thread having [[an]] a continuous outer edge, a drive flank facing said lead end and a pressure flank facing said head end, said drive flank having a generally flat surface extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread along substantially a length of said thread from said lead end to said head end; and
a series of spaced apart depressions in said pressure flank along at least a portion of [[a]] the length of said thread, wherein said depressions are formed from said outer edge of said thread generally radially inwardly towards said shank in such a manner so as to retain said continuous outer edge of said thread such that said continuous outer edge is generally tapered to a peak at each point along its length.
2. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 1, said depressions formed in said pressure flank along substantially the length of said thread from said lead end to said head.
3. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 2, said depressions extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread.
4. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 2, said depressions extending inwardly along said pressure flank from said outer edge of said thread only part of a width of said pressure flank between said shank and said outer edge of said thread.

5. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 1, said portion of said length of said thread disposed adjacent said head, and a further portion of said thread adjacent said lead end having no depressions therein.

6. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 5, said depressions extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread.

7. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 5, said depressions extending inwardly along said pressure flank from said outer edge of said thread only part of a width of said pressure flank between said shank and said outer edge of said thread.

8. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 1, said depressions extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread.

9. (Original) The threaded fastener of claim 1, said depressions extending inwardly along said pressure flank from said outer edge of said thread only part of a width of said pressure flank between said shank and said outer edge of said thread.

10. (Previously Cancelled)

11-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 1, wherein said threaded fastener is a male fastening member and said male fastening member is one component of a threaded fastening system that further includes a female fastening member adapted for threaded engagement with said male fastening member, said female fastening member including a body defining an aperture therethrough with at least one helical thread defined by said aperture adapted for engaging said thread of said male fastening member, and said body having irregularities forming projections for engaging said depressions of said threads on said male fastening member.

25. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said surface irregularities comprising a series of adjacent peaked projections projecting toward said lead end of said male threaded member positioned therein.

26. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said depressions formed in said pressure flank along substantially the length of said thread from said lead end to said head.

27. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said depressions extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread.

28. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said depressions extending inwardly along said pressure flank from said outer edge of said thread only part of a width of said pressure flank between said shank and said outer edge of said thread.

29. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said portion of said length of said thread disposed adjacent said head, and a further portion of said thread adjacent said lead end having no depressions therein.

30. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said irregularities comprising projections around a peripheral edge of said aperture.

31. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 30, said peripheral edge facing said head of said male threaded member positioned therein.

32. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 30, said peripheral edge facing said lead end of said male threaded member positioned therein.

33. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 24, said female fastening member comprising a sheet metal nut having a body forming a dome, and said projections comprising a crown projecting outwardly from said dome.

34. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 1, wherein said threaded fastener is a male fastening member and said male fastening member is one component of a threaded fastening system that further includes a female fastening member adapted for threaded engagement with said male fastening member, said female fastening member being a sheet metal single helix nut adapted for receiving said male fastening member therein, said female fastening member including a body shaped as a dome defining an aperture therethrough, with a single helix thread defined by said aperture adapted for engaging said thread of said male fastening member, and a crown projecting outwardly from said dome, said crown including peaked projections for engaging said depressions of said threads on said male fastening member.

35. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 34, said depressions extending from said shank to said outer edge of said thread.

36. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 34, said depressions extending inwardly along said pressure flank from said outer edge of said thread only part of a width of said pressure flank between said shank and said outer edge of said thread.

37. (New) The threaded fastener of claim 1, wherein said threaded fastener is a male fastening member and said male fastening member is one component of a threaded fastening system that further includes a female fastening member adapted for threaded engagement with said male fastening member, said female fastening member including a body defining an aperture therethrough with at least one helical thread defined by said aperture adapted for engaging said thread of said male fastening member, said at least one helical thread of said female fastening member being formed of plastic.